

AmeriCorps

The Minnesota Reading Corps is a statewide literacy program designed to help children become proficient readers. More than 1,000 highly-trained AmeriCorps tutors provide research-based interventions to 30,000 students in 700 sites. In 2012, 80 percent of Reading Corps participants passed their state reading tests, matching the average for all Minnesota students. Given that Reading Corps students were all on track for reading failure, this pass rate demonstrates remarkable progress. Also, Reading Corps has been proven to keep educationally at-risk children on track in general education. Students who did not receive Reading Corps tutoring were three times more likely to be referred to special education than Reading Corps participants. Extrapolating these results for the entire state of Minnesota would result in a savings of \$9 million in special education services.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Minneapolis Veterans Home was originally established in 1887 for indigent veterans of the Civil War. The Home provides skilled nursing and domiciliary care to 341 veterans. AmeriCorps NCCC members painted and completed minor repairs such as wall patching in 62 rooms in one of the Minneapolis Veterans Home's residential facilities. They also painted dayrooms and hallways. Members improved their painting skills and helped improve living conditions and the aesthetic appeal of the resident veterans' homes.

AmeriCorps VISTA

During the 2012 fiscal year, 340 full-year and summer associate AmeriCorps VISTA members served at approximately 170 sites across the state of Minnesota. They coordinated 41,233 volunteers, supported 307,878 hours of service, and helped raise \$4,737,203 in cash or grants and \$708,375 in in-kind donations. In the education sector, members supported educational services and tutoring or mentoring to 2,297 adults and 7,743 youth. Members also helped 8,481 low-income individuals receive job training; 1,772 of those individuals acquired new jobs. As part of the healthy futures initiative, AmeriCorps VISTA members helped 21,980 individuals gain increased access to healthcare services and helped 4,406 individuals increase their preventative health measures.

Senior Corps

In 2012, 16,034 Minnesota Senior Corps volunteers provided more than 2.5 million hours of service. In 2012, approximately 418 Senior Companions provided 276,839 hours of service, which allowed elderly and frail Minnesotans to continue living independently in their homes. Approximately 912 Foster Grandparent volunteers—serving as mentors, tutors and caregivers — contributed 641,174 hours in support of children and youth throughout the state. And approximately 14,704 RSVP volunteers served their communities in a variety of capacities, including tutoring, mentoring, making home repairs, helping elderly seniors access health care, supporting community events, preparing for and responding to disasters, and leading low-income seniors and youth increase to food security.

Social Innovation Fund

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), an intermediary grantee of the Social Innovation Fund, is growing Financial Opportunity Centers – a workforce development and asset-building model that boosts earnings, reduces expenses and coaches low-income families on how to make better financial decisions – to reach 7,500 total participants. In Minnesota, LISC has six nonprofit subgrantees receiving total annual grants of \$887,750 which they match dollar-for-dollar. A rigorous evaluation will provide greater evidence about the model's impact on employment, earnings, and savings.